

I am a station manager for a local 10-watt FM station here in portland oregon. The entire station is volunteer-run and we broadcast over much of the Portland area. I am writing to relate my strong belief that our 10-watts represent the community more powerfully than any clear channel or viacom station in town. Not only do we provide broadcasting experience to local individuals and organizations, but we regularly recieve email and written comments from community members indicating that they prefer our diverse and locally-oriented programming to any of the other stations in town. A proliferation of locally controlled and focused radio can only benefit communities across america, helping them to come together, and determine for themselves what they want to listen to. I know that there are many who are particularly attached to specific relayed and homogonized programming, but I think that even they would realize the benefits of controlling their own content, and participating in their own community radio if they had the opportunity. Democracy is founded upon communities--individuals with a vested interest in their neighbors' wellfare. Locally oriented radio can bring people together and provide opportunities for valuable experience in a way that homogenized and nationally-relayed radio simply cannot. Please make the choice to support American communities. Please support LPFM.